TECHNICAL NOTES
LAKE STATES FOREST EXPERIMENT STATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE · · · FOREST SERVICE
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CAN WISCONSIN BECOME SELF-SUFFICIENT IN PULPWOOD?

In recent years Wisconsin pulp mills have been importing nearly three-fourths of the pulpwood they use, (Table 1). Must they continue to look to outside sources for their wood fiber, or are there possibilities of producing the wood nearer home? Many complicated factors are involved and a detailed consideration of this problem will have to await conclusion of the Forest Survey now in progress. In a broad way, however, the following conclusions seem justified from facts now known, (Table 2):

1. The state has sufficient forest area to produce more than enough wood fiber to supply the local pulp mills were it not for species limitations.

2. Local forests do not have the capacity to yield spruce in the quantities now used. Balance can be maintained only by continued imports or shift to other species.

3. In softwood species - balsam fir, hemlock and pine - the state can become much more nearly self-sufficient than at present, but true balance probably will require something more than routine timber management, i.e., it will require planting and intensive cultivation.

4. The state could, even now, be self-sufficient in aspen. It may be more economical, however, to import some aspen rather than utilize small and scattered wood from closer sources.

5. The state has a very large excess supply of hardwoods potentially useable for pulp.

(Over)

January, 1954 R. N. CUNNINGHAM, Forest Economist

MAINTAINED IN COOPERATION WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Table 1. -Source of pulpwood used in Wisconsin mills - average for period 1947-1951 1/

Species	Produced in Wisconsin	Imported other States & Canada	Total Receipts
	Thousand Cords		
Spruce	32	562	594
Balsam fir	66	177	243
Pine	108	201	309
Hemlock	49	67	116
Aspen	203	196	399
Hardwoods-Misc.	26	29	55
All Species	484	1,232	1,716

1/ Reported in detail for the years 1946 through 1951 in Station Technical Notes 288, 301, 320 336, 364 and 398

Table 2. -Area available for growing pulp species in Wisconsin and potential yield compared with current requirements.

Species	Approx. area available for growing in Wisconsin	Potential yield of pulpwood with moderately good management: Per Acre	Potential yield of pulpwood with moderately good management: Total	Yield needed to supply current mill requirements: Per Acre	Yield needed to supply current mill requirements: Total
	M Acres	Cords	M Cords	Cords	M Cords
Spruce	300 1/	.20	60	1.98	594
Balsam fir	400	.30	120	.61	243
Jack Pine	700	.40	280	.44	309
Hemlock	2,600 2/	.05	130	.04	116
Aspen	2,000 3/	.20 4/	400	.20	399
Hardwoods	6,800	.15 4/	1,020	.01	55
Sum.			2,010		1,716

1/ Black spruce swamps.

2/ Hemlock, spruce and balsam fir are minor components of the northern hardwood type. Hemlock is declining in volume but the three species should continue to yield fairly large quantities of pulpwood from this type.

3/ The entire aspen type occupies 5 million acres but much of it is unsuitable for pulp.

4/ Yield estimates for pulpwood have been lowered because of substantial demand for other products in these types.